

What is claimed is:

1. A method for determining in a network component when to provide service to client devices operating in power-saving mode in a wireless network, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a requested servicing signal (410) from said client device;
determining an ability to accommodate said requested servicing signal (420); and
providing an indication of the ability to accommodate said requested servicing signal (435, 450, 470) to said client device.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said requested servicing signal is selected from the group consisting of: scheduled and unscheduled.

3. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein said scheduled requested servicing signal includes a proposed service schedule (460).

4. The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising the step of:
modifying said proposed service schedule (465).

5. The method as recited in claim 4, further comprising the step of:
providing said modified service schedule to said client device (470).

6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said indication is selected from the group consisting of: denied, accommodated with change, accommodated -(435, 450, 470).

7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of determining an ability to accommodate is based on at least one factor selected from the group consisting of: the requested servicing method, the proposed schedule, network operating state, network policy, and network condition (510, 630).

8. A device for determining in a network component when to provide service to client devices operating in power-saving mode in a wireless network, said device comprising:
a memory (704);

a processor (703) in communication with said memory, said processor operable to execute code for:

receiving a requested servicing signal (410) from said client device (701);
determining an ability to accommodate said requested servicing signal (420); and
providing an indication of the ability to accommodate said requested servicing signal (435, 450, 470) to said client device.

9. The device as recited in claim 8, wherein said requested servicing signal is selected from the group consisting of: scheduled and unscheduled.

10. The device as recited in claim 9, wherein said scheduled requested servicing signal includes a proposed service schedule (460).

11. The device as recited in claim 10, wherein said processor is further operable to execute code for:

modifying said proposed service schedule (465).

12. The device as recited in claim 11, wherein said processor is further operable to execute code for:

providing said modified service schedule to said client device (470).

13. The device as recited in claim 8, wherein said indication is selected from the group consisting of: denied, accommodated with change, accommodated (435, 450, 470).

14. The device as recited in claim 1, wherein said processor is further operable to execute code for:

determining said ability to accommodate based on at least one factor selected from the group consisting of: the requested servicing method, the proposed schedule, network operating state, network policy, and network condition (430, 510, 630).

15. The device as recited in claim 8, further comprising:

an I/O device (702) operable as an interface between said network and said processor.

16. The device as recited in claim 8, wherein said code is stored in said memory.

17. The device as recited in claim 8, further comprising:

- a receiving device for receiving said requested service method; and
- a transmitting device for providing at least said indication to said client device.

18. A processor (703) within a network component (700) for determining the ability of said network component to honor a servicing request signal receiving from a client device (701), said processor executing code for:

- reviewing an operating state of said network component (430, 510, 630);
- reviewing said servicing request signal (420);
- accommodating said servicing request signal, with modification when necessary, when said operating state and said servicing request signal are corresponding (435, 470); and
- providing an indication of said accommodation to said client device.

19. The processor as recited in claim 18, further executing code for:

- providing an indication of denying said servicing request signal when said operating state and said servicing request signal are not corresponding (530).

20. The processor as recited in claim 18, wherein said operating state is selected from the group consisting of: processing load, demand, projected processing load, projected demand, network component operating state, network component policy, and network component condition.

21. The processor as recited in claim 18, wherein said servicing request signal is selected from the group consisting of: scheduled and unscheduled.